

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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EO 11652: NA  
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TAGS: EG, US, XF, RO, UR  
SUBJ: INTENSIVE PRESS COVERAGE OF ARAB LEAGUE PREPARATIONS  
AND EGYPTIAN CONTACTS

REF (A) CAIRO 14400, (B) CAIRO 14605,

1. SUMMARY: AS AL MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING BEGINS, PRESS NOTES FAHMY CONTACTS INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF US-PLO DIALOGUE. AGENDA SAID TO INCLUDE SOME 50 ITEMS, PRINCIPALLY LAST WEEK'S EGYPTIAN NOTE TO AL, PALESTINIAN QUESTION, ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY AND COORDINATION FOR UNGA. ARAFAT, ALSO ATTENDING, SAYS USSR WILL NOT PARTICIPATE AT GENEVA IF PLO EXCLUDED. LIBYA AGAIN CALLS FOR ARAB SUMMIT AND EMIR SAUD SAYS RED SEA WILL REMAIN INTERNATIONAL WATERWAY. END SUMMARY

2. US-PLO DIALOGUE. IN WIDE COVERAGE OF INTER-ARAB DOINGS IN CAIRO, PROMINENCE ACCORDED FONMIN FAHMY BILATERAL DON-TACTS WITH OTHER FONMINS. HIS MEETINGS WITH SYRIAN, SAUDI, AND IRAQI FONMINS CENTERED ON FURTHER STEPS IN PEACE PROCESS, ARAB STRATEGY IN EVENT OF FAILURE TO RECONVENE GENEVA, ARAB DRIVE AT UN AGAINST ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES AND "CURRENT CONTACTS TO PREPARE FOR DIRECT DIALOGUE BETWEEN PLO AND US, AND PLO PARTICIPATION IN PEACE TALKS."

3. AL AGENDA. ACCORDING PRESS, FONMINS WILL FACE AGENDA SOME FIFTY TOPICS LONG. (FONMINS UNLIKELY ADDRESS ENTIRE AGENDA. MEETINGS OF AMBS GO ON FOR SEVERAL DAYS AFTER MINISTERS DEPART.) MAIN ITEM TO BE DISCUSSED WILL BE EGYPTIAN NOTE (REF A) ON NEW ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS AND ENFORCEMENT OF ISRAELI LAW IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. FOREMOST BASIC QUESTION WILL BE PAL-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ESTINIAN SITUATION AND ADOPTION OF UNIFIED ARAB STAND ON PALESTINIANS AT UNGA. OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION ARE: ARAB COUNTER-MEASURES TO ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES AND "TO STRENGTHEN PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY UNDER ZIONIST OCCUPATION" (PRESUMABLY REFERENCE TO STEADFASTNESS FUND CONCEPT); CHANCES FOR RECONVENING GENEVA IN VIEW OF ISRAELI "OPPOSITION TO PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT"; ROLE OF ARAB PEACEKEEPING FORCES IN LEBANON; EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE; AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION; ADMISSION OF DJIBOUTI AND COMOROS ISLANDS TO ARAB LEAGUE; SOMALI NOTE ON ETHIOPIA; AL SECRETARIAT NOTE ON NEW LIBYAN CALL FOR ARAB SUMMIT IN TRIPOLI; PLO PROPOSAL FOR CREATION OF PALESTINIAN PPT. NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED FOR DISCUSSION IS NOTE SUBMITTED BY ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT DEL DEMANDING CLEAR AND COLLECTIVE ARAB SUPPORT. AHRAH IN EDITORIAL NOTES IMPORTANCE OF PRESENT MEETING DERIVES PARTY FROM "US MOVEMENT TOWARDS PEACE."

4. ARAFAT. PRESS REPORTS SEPARATELY THAT ARAFAT EXPECTED ARRIVE IN CAIRO DURING AL DELIBERATIONS. PLO WILL PRESENT NOTE INCLUDING ITS VIEW ON ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS AND SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. ARAFAT QUOTED AS SAYING SOVIET UNION WILL NOT ATTEND GENEVA CONF UNLESS PLO PARTICIPATES.

5. SAUDI ASSURANCE ON RED SEA. GUMHURIYYA QUOTES SAUDI FONMIN SAUD THAT SAUDI ARABIA AGAINST "CHANGING NATURE OF RED SEA AS INTERNATIONAL WATERWAY."

6. ISREAL. THERE NO COVERAGE OS SHARON REMARKS ON ISRAELI SETTLEMENT PLANS. ISRAELI KNESSET DECISION REJECTING CONTACT WITH PLO COVERED BRIEFLY AS "CHALLENGE TO US AND INDICATION THAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ISRAEL AND US ARE RADICAL".

7. COMMENT: AS REPORT ON FAHMY BILATERAL CONTACTS INDICATES, EGYPTIANS STILL ATTEMPTING HOOLD DOOR AJAR ON QUESTION OF US-PLO DIALOGUE IN ATTEMPT COUNTER ISRAELI TOTAL EXCLUSION OF PLO FROM PEACE PROCESS. PRESS SEEMS TO HAVE ADOPTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TACTIC OF AVOIDING MENTION OF SPECIFIC ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY, PERHAPS IN REALIZATION THAT TO DO OTHERWISE WOULD CAST LIGHT ON ARAB HELPLESSNESS. AT SAME TIME, EGYPTIANS SEE NO PROFIT IN HIGHLIGHTING FACT THAT US OPPOSITION TO SETTLEMENTS HAS NOT CHANGED ISRAELI POLICY. EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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